

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Submitted herewith are replacement sheets of drawing for Figs. 13A, 13B, 14A, 14B, 15A and 15B in which, in each figure, reference numeral "18" has been changed to --18'-- to conform the drawings to the written description in the specification in paragraph [0061].

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, claims 1-5 and 8-13 were allowed. The specification was objected to because of improper section headings, and appropriate correction was required. The specification was also objected to because of the phrases "Patent Document 1" and "Patent Document 2" which the Examiner stated should be deleted. The abstract was objected to as being informal and as exceeding 150 words in length, and appropriate correction was required. The drawings were accepted. The Examiner acknowledged receipt of applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 and receipt of the priority document, thereby perfecting the foreign priority claim.

Applicants and their attorney acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-5 and 8-13 and appreciate the Examiner pointing out informalities that require correction.

In accordance with this response, the application has been amended to overcome all grounds of objection as well as other informalities noted by applicants.

The specification has been amended to correct the section headings and to add a cross-reference to applicants' international application. The objection to the phrases "Patent Document 1" and "Patent Document 2" has been overcome by initially identifying these documents and thereafter

referring to them as Patent Document 1 and Patent Document 2. The identification of Patent Documents 1 and 2 appears in the original specification at the end of paragraph [0004], and the identification of these documents has been transferred to the beginning of the specification in paragraph [0002].

Allowed independent claim 1 has been amended in minor formal respects to avoid a double inclusion of the working fluid by changing the second occurrence of "a working fluid" to --the working fluid--. Also, "wherein" has been changed to --and-- to conform the format of claim 1 to that of independent claim 9. No substantive change has been made to allowed claim 1.

Allowed claim 8 recites "A recording medium driving device, which comprises the motor according to claim 4..." However, claim 4 was previously canceled and did not recite a motor. Thus there is no antecedent basis for "the motor according to claim 4" in claim 8, thereby rendering claim 8 indefinite. To correct this indefiniteness, claim 8 has been amended to depend on new claim 16. New claim 16 is similar to original (now canceled) claim 7 except that claim 16 depends only on claim 1 whereas original claim 7 depended on any one of claim 1 through claim 6. Claim 16 recites a motor comprising a fluid dynamic pressure bearing according to claim 1, and a driving device which rotates the housing and the shaft of the fluid dynamic pressure bearing relative to each

other, thereby providing an antecedent basis for "the motor" recited in allowed claim 8.

Applicants recognize that prosecution on the merits has been closed and that entry of new claim 16 is at the discretion of the Examiner. In view of the indefiniteness of allowed claim 8 due to its dependency on a canceled claim and the lack of antecedence for "the motor," which heretofore has gone unnoticed, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner permit entry of new claim 16 to cure the indefiniteness of claim 8. Since claim 16 depends on allowed claim 1, it is submitted that no further search or consideration would be required to determine the patentability of claim 16.

Figs. 13A, 13B, 14A, 14B, 15A and 15B have been corrected to change reference numeral "18" to --18'-- so that the drawing figures are consistent with the specification. As described in paragraph [0061], Figs. 13-15 illustrate spiral grooves 18' rather than the herringbone grooves 18 of earlier embodiments as the thrust dynamic pressure generating grooves provided on the end faces of the thrust bearing plate. Corrected Figs. 13-15 conform to and are consistent with the description in the specification in paragraph [0061].

A new abstract has been added to overcome the formal objections noted by the Examiner with respect to the original abstract. The new abstract does not exceed 150 words in

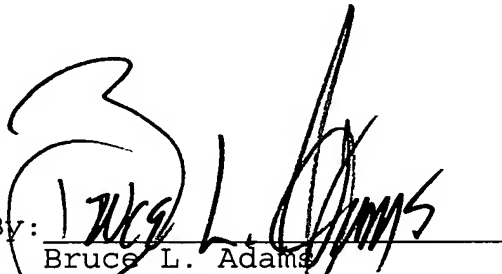
length and complies with the language and format requirements set forth in the guidelines for abstracts in MPEP §608.01(b).

As all grounds of objection and all informalities have been overcome, the application is now believed to be in allowable form. However, should the Examiner determine that something further need be done, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney so that any outstanding matter can be promptly attended to.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

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Name

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Signature

NOVEMBER 17, 2008

Date